

Hawai'i State Association of Counties (HSAC)

Counties of Kaua'i, Maui, Hawai'i and City & County of Honolulu

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Message from HSAC President Stacy Crivello

On March 21, the State House Committee on Tourism decided to revert the counties' share of the transient accommodations tax back to \$93 million. This would further burden residents to pay for county services our visitors already pay for. The bill moves along in the House and remains the vehicle for the counties' TAT request.

The committee's action was disappointing, which is why the Hawaii State Association of Counties is **seeking your support** to help urge the legislature to do the right thing – give the counties a fair share.

The counties currently receive \$103 million of the TAT revenue. Though we have always supported the bill's original intent – lifting the TAT cap and imposing a fair distribution formula of the TAT revenue share, **HSAC is amenable to a \$108-million compromise.**

HSAC supports Senate Draft 2 of the bill, which allocates \$108 million instead of the current \$93-million version. This money is critical to meet the counties' budgetary needs to provide adequate services to residents and visitors.

The bill is scheduled for a hearing on Thursday, March 30 at 3 p.m. in the House Finance Committee. Your testimony supporting a \$108-million allocation to the counties would have a significant impact. Time is of the essence and we humbly ask for your participation by testifying on SB1290.

HSAC's testimony: http://hicounties.com/wp-content/uploads/2016/11/SB1290_sd2_hd1_mkz.pdf

Please call 270-7665 if you have any questions. Mahalo.

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